



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Jacob Thomas, et al.                      Art Unit : 2857  
Serial No. : 09/976,573                                  Examiner : McElheny, D.  
Filed : October 12, 2001  
Title : SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR REAL TIME RESERVOIR MANAGEMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

REPLY TO ACTION OF NOVEMBER 3, 2003

In reply to the Office Action of November 3, 2003, Applicants submit the following remarks.

Claims 1-36 are pending in the Application. Claims 1-36 are rejected. Claims 1-5, 7, 9, 11, 12, 22, 23, 25, 26, 29-31, 33, 35, and 36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Rinaldi (4,676,313). Claims 6, 8, 10, 13-21, 24, 27, 28, 32, and 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rinaldi. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application in view of the remarks herein.

In rejecting the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), Rinaldi is cited as teaching "updating of the [production/injection forecast]. . . as a continuously ongoing monitored iterative process." However, in describing the invention throughout the specification, Rinaldi discusses determining flow patterns *continually*, not continuously. For example, at column 2, lines 21-24, Rinaldi states "The computer *continually* monitors and compares these pressures and flow rates, determines flow patterns, and opens or closes the reservoir valves as required," (emphasis added).

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY FIRST CLASS MAIL

I hereby certify under 37 CFR §1.8(a) that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage on the date indicated below and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

March 29, 2004

Date of Deposit

Signature

Pat Bradford

Typed or Printed Name of Person Signing Certificate